

I claim:

1           Claim 1 A method for protecting crop seeds and grains between the times of planting and  
2           emergence from destruction or compromise by insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living  
3           organisms, the method consisting of contacting the crop seeds and grains with an aqueous  
4           formulation containing only capsicum as the active ingredient, prior to planting the crop seeds and  
5           grains, and protecting the germinating crop seeds and grains from destruction or compromise by  
6           insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living organisms during the time of emergence.

1           Claim 2 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains  
2           includes coating the crop seeds and grains with the aqueous formulation.

1           Claim 3 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains  
2           includes soaking the crop seeds and grains in the aqueous formulation.

1           Claim 4 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains  
2           includes spraying the crop seeds and grains with the aqueous formulation.

1           Claim 5 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains  
2           includes forming the aqueous formulation into a thickened paste and applying the paste as a coating  
3           to the seeds and grains.

1           Claim 6 The method of claim 5 in which a sprayer is used in the step of applying the paste  
2           as a coating to the seeds and grains.

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1                   Claim 7 The method of claim 1 in which the step of contacting the crop seeds and grains  
2                   includes vaporizing the aqueous formulation prior to contacting the crop seeds and grains therewith.

1                   Claim 8 The method of claim 7 in which the vapor is formed by boiling the aqueous  
2                   solution.

1                   Claim 9 The method of claim 7 in which the vapor is formed by aerosolizing the aqueous  
2                   solution.

1                   Claim 10 The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of drying the seeds and grains  
2                   following contact with the aqueous formulation.

1                   Claim 11 The method of claim 10, in which step of drying the seeds and grains utilizes  
2                   circulating hot air.

1                   Claim 12 The method of claim 10, in which step of drying the seeds and grains comprises  
2                   placing the seeds and grains into a drying chamber.

1                   Claim 13 The method of claim 12, further comprising using a conveyor belt for placing the  
2                   seeds and grains into a drying chamber.

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1                   Claim 14 A method for protecting germinating crop seeds and grains from destruction or  
2                   compromise by insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living organisms, the method consisting of  
3                   contacting the crop seeds and grains with an aqueous formulation containing only capsicum as the  
4                   active ingredient prior to planting, and protecting the seedlings from destruction or compromise by  
5                   insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living organisms during the time of emergence.

1                   Claim 15 The method of Claim 14, wherein the germinating crop seeds are protected  
2                   between the time of germination to the seedling stage.

1                   Claim 16 The method of Claim 14, further comprising the following step:  
2                   Treating the seedlings with a conventional plant treatment.

1                   Claim 17 A method for protecting crop seeds and grains from destruction or compromise  
2                   by insects, fungus, mold, bacteria and other living organisms, the method consisting of coating the  
3                   crop seeds and grains with an aqueous formulation containing only capsicum as the active  
4                   ingredient, prior to planting the crop seeds and grains.

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